

Application Serial No. 10/729,634
Amendment dated March 1, 2007
Reply to Office Action of February 1, 2007

REMARKS

The above-identified application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed February 1, 2007. It is respectfully submitted that the claims pending in the application are fully supported by the specification, introduce no new matter, and are patentable over the prior art.

The Office Action stated that the application included claims directed towards several species and required the Applicant to elect a single species for prosecution on the merits in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 121.

In response thereto, the Applicant hereby provisionally elects, without traverse, the species of Figures 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, and 18D. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 4-9, 12, and 13 read on the elected species. The remaining claims are withdrawn from consideration. The withdrawn claims are subject to reinstatement in the event that the requirement for restriction is withdrawn or overruled. In addition, the Applicant expressly reserves the right to prosecute the withdrawn claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

Application Serial No. 10/729,634
Amendment dated March 1, 2007
Reply to Office Action of February 1, 2007

Prompt and favorable action on these claims, namely claims 1-15, is earnestly requested.

Should the Examiner desire a telephonic interview to resolve any outstanding matters, the Examiner is sincerely invited to contact the undersigned at (631) 501-5713.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana A. Brussel

Dana A. Brussel
Reg. No. 45,717
Attorney for Applicant

Carter, DeLuca, Farrell & Schmidt, LLP
445 Broad Hollow Road - Suite 225
Melville, New York 11747
Tel.: (631) 501-5713
Fax: (631) 501-3526

Send correspondence to:

Chief Patent Counsel
Tyco Healthcare Group
195 McDermott Road
North Haven, Connecticut 06473